

Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) Meeting Summary September 13, 2007

Participants		
Cara Clore	Michigan Recycling Coalition and Clinton County	clorec@clinton-county.org
Michael Csapo	Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County (RRRASOC)	RRRASOC@aol.com
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Tom Hickson	Michigan Association of Counties (MAC)	hickson@micounties.org
Don Pyle	Delta Solid Waste Management Authority/Upper Peninsula Recycling Coalition (UPRC)	Dswma1@hughes.net
Patty O'Donnell	Northwest MI Council of Governments	pattyodonnell@nwm.cog.mi.us
Jim Frey	Resource Recovery Systems (RRS)	frey@recycle.com
Paul Zugger	Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC)	pzugger@pscinc.com
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DEQ Staff		
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MDA Staff		
Gordon Wenk	MDA – Environmental Stewardship	wenkg@michigan.gov

1. Welcome and introductions.

George Bruchmann welcomed the participants and outlined his vision for the functions of the committee.

1) Implementation of the Policy

2) Help guide WHMD in implementation of Part 115 statute and rules

2. SWAC role and function.

The SWAC is not a decision making body but will advise the WHMD throughout the decision making process. The SWAC will help the WHMD keep on track with implementation on the Policy.

Additional SWAC members recommended by the committee include:

Tonya Olsen – Granger

John Hawthorn – Great Lakes Recycling

Michigan Municipal League

Environmental Organizations (Michigan Environmental Council)

Michigan Recycling Partnership

Colleges and Universities – Roger Cargill, Greg Keolian

SQS, EQ, or D&L – Walt Grabowski or Brent Walter

Legislative Service Bureau

Interest was expressed by SWAC members to include legislative staff in the meetings.

Recommended Standing SWAC Agenda Items:

Legislative Update

Enforcement Update

Report on past actions including rulemaking

It was requested that WHMD keep SWAC informed between meetings using electronic communication including e-mail and Web site.

It was suggested that the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) provide periodic legislative updates to SWAC on solid waste related legislation.

*Note- meeting summaries, legislative information, and documents of interest to the SWAC can be found by going to the DEQ Web page at www.michigan.gov/deq and clicking on boards and advisory groups then clicking on Solid Waste Advisory Committee. Or clicking here http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3312_4123-169601--,00.html

3. Sampling of current solid waste issues.

a. Solid waste legislation (fees, planning and recycling, composting)

Fees

\$0.07/cubic yard solid waste surcharge sunsets in October. An increase has been requested as was reported to stakeholders earlier this year. As of this date it does not appear that the fee increase will move through the Legislature this year. At this point, a sunset extension is all that is expected.

The proposals for a \$7.50/ton solid waste surcharge have not seen much activity in recent months. House Bill (HB) 4221 passed the House but HB 4222, the distribution formula, has not moved from committee.

Planning and recycling

Bills have been introduced to change the solid waste planning process and increase data collection.

Composting

Senate Bill 513 has passed the senate. It expands the laws regulating composting of yard clippings at composting facilities, landfills, and farms.

b. Downward trend in solid waste disposal

Solid waste disposal volumes in Michigan have decreased resulting in \$400,000 less revenue being generated from the \$0.07/cubic yard surcharge. The decrease may be a result of

a weak economy and less C&D waste being disposed because of downturn in construction. Additionally there has been a surge in C&D construction waste recycling.

c. Alternative daily cover (ADC) operational memorandum

The ADC memo is in the process of being reviewed. A determination is being made regarding the criteria that are used to determine suitable ADC. When it is available, the updated memo will be shared with the SWAC for comment.

d. Invasive species disposal

Yard clippings are prohibited from landfill disposal or incineration. Invasive species that meet the definition of yard clippings are also prohibited from disposal. WHMD is working on a solution to allow the disposal of invasive species that are inappropriate to compost.

e. Consolidated annual waste receipt, Perpetual Care Fund (PCF), and surcharge form

WHMD is creating one form that will be used to report waste receipt, PCF, and \$0.07/cubic yard solid waste surcharge.

A short discussion was had on the responsibilities of transfer stations to report to landfills the origin of the waste not the location of the transfer station. A reminder letter to transfer stations was suggested.

f. Open burning and onsite disposal of household waste

A stakeholder workgroup is being formed.

g. Disposal of waste from ethanol production

DEQ and MDA are working on guidance to ethanol producers.

4. WHMD's FY08 Strategic Plan solid waste items

a. Address waste-related agricultural issues

- b. Develop and implement a comprehensive solid waste management framework
- c. Part 115 rules amendments for inertness and composting

Question from SWAC “Is strategic plan posted on-line?”

5. Next steps in implementation of the updated Solid Waste Policy

The mission statement of the SWAC is found within the Solid Waste Policy:

1. Implement and maintain a system that provides for input from all affected parties in the development of, revisions to, and administration of policies, laws, and regulations. This system should utilize necessary and available data and information regarding economic vitality, ecological integrity, and quality of life consistent with this Solid Waste Policy.
2. Establish a standing Solid Waste Policy Advisory Committee to advise the DEQ and help guide implementation of this Solid Waste Policy.

Agenda item for next SWAC was suggested – How to track 50 percent utilization goal.

The SWAC suggested additional efforts be made to communicate the existence of the updated Solid Waste Policy.

*Note: WHMD is working on a “spotlight article” for the DEQ homepage. A press release was distributed on May 31, 2007. An article was in the in June ESSD bulletin. Additional suggestions for distribution of the policy are welcome.

Some questions that may be addressed by the SWAC were included in George Bruchmann’s August 9, 2007, invitation letter to the SWAC. They are as follows:

- What are some strategies for Michigan to utilize 50 percent of its waste stream by 2015?

- How can we ensure all Michigan citizens have convenient access to residential recycling programs by 2012?
- What are ways to support the development of markets for recycled materials?
- How can research and development be encouraged to share and commercialize technologies and practices that generate less waste?
- What is the best way to provide information to citizens, businesses, governments, and other organizations on why and how to reduce waste generation?
- How can Michigan businesses, governments, and individuals collaborate in regional and national efforts to encourage product design to produce less waste?
- How can we collaborate in regional and national efforts to encourage manufacturing and distribution systems to facilitate waste utilization?
- How can we facilitate and expand opportunities for collection and management of household hazardous wastes, construction and demolition wastes, organics, pharmaceuticals, and other special wastes?
- What is the best way to identify and implement a sustainable and equitable funding mechanism(s) to provide for a minimum level of solid waste management activities for Michigan citizens?

6. Schedule next meeting

December 7, 2007, from 9 a.m. to Noon